The member therefore enquired whether the preparation of the estimate for the road was complete and when the construction of the road would commence.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Coghlan, the estimate has been prepared and is being sent from the Chief Engineer's office and will come up for consideration to Government soon. The work on this road has not been begun yet, as the estimate itself has not been sanctioned. When the estimate is ready, it will be sent to the Road Board which will have to decide when this road will have to be taken up, whether it can be taken up next year. If the Road Board will recommend it to be taken up immediately, I shall be very glad to have it taken up. We cannot say that the estimate is quite ready, because it is being examined in the Chief Engineer's Office. I hope before long the estimate will be passed and then it will be referred to the Road Board.

43. Improvement of certain ferries and roads.

MR. E. T.C. FARR (*South Travancore Planters' Association*) said that the condition of the three river crossings on the Konni-Lahai road was far from satisfactory and at certain seasons of the year they were well-nigh impassable and often dangerous. The causeway put up at the first place, *viz.*, the Konni-Pattanamtitta crossing, had proved to be an utter failure. He therefore suggested that concrete approaches of 50 yards in length should be made on both sides of the river. In the Vadasserikara crossing also, solid concrete approaches rising from the bed of the river to 50 yards up the road on each side should be put up. The third crossing at the Lahai (elephant cage) also would become impassable during the rains, unless the existing platforms were improved.

The member next referred to the deplorable state of the cart road between Nagercoil and Tadikarankonam. Due to the constant transport of timber, the road had become thoroughly unfit for motor traffic. The Masupatty bridge suffered by the floods of 1099 and had not been repaired since then. The Ashamboo and Balamore Estates were therefore completely cut off from the main roads. It would appear that the Government were not willing to reconstruct the bridge. In that case, a new cart road might be opened *via* Parmanai, Kulasekharam, etc. to Nagercoil.

Lastly, the member requested that the interests of his Association might be represented on the Trivandrum, Quilon and Nagercoil District Road Boards newly formed.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Farr, as regards the crossings that you mention, the Chief Engineer states that their improvement has already been sanctioned, and that those works have already been taken in hand and will be completed soon.

With regard to the second point, I understand that the road up to the 11th mile, *i. e.* miles 1 to 11, is in a fairly good condition and that the 12th mile is being metalled. Estimates are pending with regard to miles 13 to 15. The question of taking up the 15th and 16th

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miles is under consideration. With regard to the rest of the road, I understand from the Chief Engineer that it is in a fairly good condition.

As regards the bridge, I do not think it is right to say that the Government have given up the idea of improving the bridge. The intention is to refer that matter to the Road Board.

MEMBER: My Association have quite recently asked me to represent that their interests may be safeguarded on the Road Board by the representation of one of their members on the Nagercoil and Quilon District Boards. We have no representation now.

DEWAN: I shall consider that question.

MEMBER: Thank you very much.

44. Glenmary and Church-Hill Grant-in-aid roads.

MR. A. R. ST. GEORGE (*Central Travancore Planters' Association*) said that, when at the previous session of the Assembly he requested the Government to take up the maintenance of the roads, he was told in reply that the question would be left to the Road Board for decision. Now that the Road Boards were formed, he requested that the matter might be referred to the Devicolam District Road Board so that they might advise the Government to take up the roads from the beginning of 1106. He said that in that Board his Association was not represented. Formerly the roads in question were known as "Planters' roads"; but now they were used by the general public who however paid no contribution towards their upkeep. The bulk of the cost of maintenance was met by the estates, their share being three or four times the contribution paid by the Government. But latterly some estates refused to pay any contribution at all. He therefore requested once more that the roads might be taken up for departmental maintenance from the beginning of 1106.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. St. George, with regard to these roads, I shall send these suggestions of yours to the District Road Board as soon as it begins to work.

With regard to your grievance that there is no representative for the Central Travancore Planters' Association on the Board, I find from the rules that there is provision for two representatives of the Planters' Associations. The Associations are the Mundakayam Planters' Association and the Kanan Devan Planters' Association. Your request is that your Association also should be represented. I will consider that and pass orders.

45. Public Works in the Kayankulam Town.

MR. P. V. IRUPPOOTY (*Municipal Council, Kayankulam*) first spoke about the need for converting into a public road the lane from the motor bus stand on the Kayankulam-Karunagapalli road to St. Antony's church landing. The work was most necessary as the lane was a much frequented one and situated in a very important and busy part of the town. The Government had also felt the need for the work and had agreed to sanction it if the Municipal Council would undertake

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